

Client Assistance Program

O F F I C E O F T H E G O V E R N O R

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The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is the federally mandated program that advocates for persons with disabilities in South Carolina who are seeking or receiving services through the **Vocational Rehabilitation Department (VR)**, **Commission for the Blind (CB)**, and all **Independent Living Programs (IL)** and projects funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

CAP assists consumers with questions regarding the **Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I**.



Get out and Vote! It is our fundamental right to vote, and our duty and responsibility to exercise that right.

There is not a length of residency requirement in South Carolina in order to register to vote. You must be registered at least thirty days prior to any election in order to vote in that election. If registration is completed by mail, applications must be postmarked at least thirty days prior to the upcoming election. **You must be registered to vote by October 4, 2008 in order to vote on Tuesday, November 4, 2008.**

To be eligible to vote in South Carolina, you must:

- Be a US citizen at least eighteen years or older on or before the next election
- Be a resident of South Carolina, county and precinct in which you reside
- Not under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent
- Not be confined to any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime
- Not have been convicted of a felony, or an offense against election laws, you must have served your entire sentence (including probation or parole) or you must be pardoned before you can vote again.

<http://scvotes.org>

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month



"America's People, America's Talent... America's Strength!" will be the official 2008 theme for *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*, which is observed in October nationwide. The 2008 theme captures the accomplishments highlighted in the 2007 progress report on President Bush's *New Freedom Initiative* for people with disabilities.

"Full access to community life for Americans with disabilities is an imperative and this year's theme conveys the tremendous contributions that these Americans can make in the workplace," said Secretary Chao.

"It is important to note that having people with disabilities in the workplace is valuable to the individual and to businesses," said Neil Romano, assistant secretary for the Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy. "People with disabilities are the next great wave of diversity, and diversity fosters innovation to drive our economy and our nation into the future."

For more information, visit www.dol.gov/odep.



2009 Journalism Contest

Sponsored by the SC Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

This year's topic is **"America's People, America's Talent... America's Strength!"**. This year's topic ties in with the theme for the National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

The winner of the **Annual Journalism Essay Contest** will receive a **four-year scholarship to any South Carolina state-supported institution of his or her choice** provided, of course, that the winner is otherwise qualified. The scholarship pays for undergraduate tuition and fees. Each institution has its own definition of tuition and fees, which may or may not include room and board. The scholarship may be cancelled if the recipient does not maintain general scholastic and conduct standards established by the institution. You **do not** have to have a disability to enter.

For more information on the Journalism Essay Contest, call the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department Public Information Office at (803) 896-6833 or 896-6834, or visit the website at www.scvrd.net/g_journal_contest.html

November 16-22, 2008 is National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week

Each year, one week prior to Thanksgiving, National Coalition for the Homeless sponsor the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. During this week, a number of schools, communities and cities take part in a nationwide effort to bring greater awareness to the problems of hunger and homelessness. Visit www.nationalhomeless.org for further information and ideas on how you can be involved in supporting this national effort.

2008 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR

October 8-19, 2008

Wednesday, October 8

Opening Day (Gates Open at 3:00 PM)
\$1.00 Gate Admission for Everyone

Saturday, October 11

Two Ride for the Price of One
(9:00-11:00) All ages

Wednesday, October 15

Seniors Day
Special entertainment & free Ferris wheel rides all day for all seniors

Thursday, October 16

Exceptional Citizens Day
All permanently disabled persons admitted free all day. One additional person admitted free if assistance is required

Friday, October 17

Military Appreciation Day
All active and retired military personnel, National Guard, Reservist and dependents with proper ID admitted free until 6:00 PM

Saturday, October 18

Two Ride for the Price of One
(9:00-1:00) All ages



Are You Ready to Make the Switch to DTV?

Are You Ready to Make the Switch to DTV?

Digital television (DTV) is a modern type of over-the-air broadcasting technology that enables TV stations to provide dramatically clearer and better sound quality. The DTV transition will be completed on February 17, 2009 as set by Congress.

If you use an antenna to watch free, over-the-air television on an analog TV set- and do not subscribe to cable or satellite service, then you will be affected by the transition. If you pay for satellite or cable services, then you will not need to upgrade. You will need a DTV converter box to continue to receive service. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is issuing coupons between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009. All households will be eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40.00 each to be used towards the purchase of a converter box. Information about the DTV converter box coupon program is available at www.ntia.doc.gov or call 1-888-388-2009.

For further information, you can also visit your local news websites.



VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Assistance in marking a ballot is allowed only if the voter is legally blind, illiterate or physically handicapped. A voter with a disability may choose anyone to assist him/her except his employer, agent of his employer or an officer or agent of his union.

Any voter who is physically handicapped or age 65 or older, who can not enter the polling place or is unable to stand in line will be able to take part in the "curbside voting." The person may vote outside that polling center in the closest available handicapped parking area. Poll managers periodically check the area and will bring a ballot to the vehicle or the person assisting the disabled voter may go in the polling center and request a ballot to be sent to the vehicle. For more information on how to obtain and apply for an absentee ballot, contact your local county voter registration office.

http://www.scvotes.org/voter_with_disabilities

ABSENTEE VOTING

Any registered voter who, for the following reasons, is eligible to vote by way of an absentee ballot:

- Students, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- Members of the Armed Forces, Merchant Marines, Red Cross, USO, Coast Guard, government employees, their spouses and dependents residing with them
- Overseas U.S. citizens
- For reasons of employment and will not be able to vote on election day
- Physically disabled persons
- Persons on vacation
- Persons age 65 or older
- Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients on day of election or at least four days prior to the election
- Voters with a death or funeral within three days before the election
- Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility who has not been convicted of a crime
- Persons attending to sick or physically disabled persons
- Persons serving as jurors in a state or federal court on election day
- Certified poll watchers and poll managers

For more information on how to obtain and apply for an absentee ballot, contact your local county voter registration office.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

South Carolina residents can register in person or by mail. You can print an online Voter Registration Application at www.scvotes.org and mail or take it in person to your county's Board of Voter Registration office. You must attach a copy of your current driver's license or photo ID. Voter registration can also be completed through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).